

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DHA-02

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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TAGS: EEC, GR, PFOR, ETRD

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK-EC RELATIONS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5744 (B) ATHENS 4574;

(C) ATHENS 4782

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION-THE PAST WEEK BROUGHT A MISCELLANY OF EVENTS, OF VARYING IMPORTANCE, RELATING TO GREEK-EC RELATIONS. THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP, AND THE FIRST FORMAL ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS BY THE EUROPEAN
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INVESTMENT BANK FROM THE BALANCE OF THE FIRST EC-GREEK

FINANCIAL PROTOCOL (WHICH WAS FROZEN DURING THE JUNTA YEARS) WERE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. THE MEETING IN ATHENS OF THE MIXED EC-GREEK PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND OTHER EVENTS PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS, BUT WERE OF LESS PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE.
END SUMMARY

2. EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS- THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT ON JUNE 24 BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR EARLY FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, AND ITS FORMAL REQUEST FOR A COMMISSION OPINION ON THE APPLICATION (SEE REF. A). THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIED THIS NEWS PROMINENTLY AND WITH A FAVORABLE SLANT BUT ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NOT ALL THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE EQUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE APPLICATION.

3. MIXED GREEK-EC PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE-THE 9TH MEETING OF THE MIXED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN ATHENS FROM JUNE 25 TO 28 AND MARKED THE FIRST SUCH MEETING SINCE THE RESTORATION OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE (EARLIER THIS YEAR A GROUP OF GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS HAD VISITED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG). THE MEETING PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR A GOOD DEAL OF WELL-INTENTIONED RHETORIC WHICH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC. MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING PAPALIGOURAS COMMENTED THAT THE GREEK CASE COULD FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF THE BRITISH, IRISH AND DANISH ACCESSIONS IN PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL 5-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD AFTER BECOMING FULL MEMBER. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE MEETINGS WAS THE UNANIMITY EXHIBITED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY (THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES) OVER THE QUESTION OF EARLY MEMBERSHIP. JOHN PESMAZOGLOU, A PROMINENT CU/NF SPOKESMAN AND THE LEADER OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE MIXED COMMITTEE, ECHOED THE APOLOGIA FOR THE GREEK APPLICATION DELIVERED BY MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING PAPALIGOURAS, AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE GREEK PEOPLE SUPPORTED EARLY MEMBERSHIP. A NOTABLE EXCEPTION TO THE STUDIED VAGUENESS OF THE COMMENTS OF THE VISITING EC OFFICIALS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT OF EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT GARRET FITZGERALD, THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS QUOTED AS VOLUNTEERING IN RESPONSE TO A PRESS QUERY "THAT THE TIME REQUIRED (FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP) SHOULD BE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE YEARS." IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BOTH GREEK AND EC REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT TURKISH FEARS THAT GREECE'S APPLICATION OR EARLY MEMBERSHIP WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT TURKISH INTERESTS WERE UNFOUNDED (SEE REF. C).

4. COMMUNIQUE-AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MIXED PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS, A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED CALLING FOR EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF THE GREEK APPLICATION; STRESSING THE NEED OF STRENGTHENING POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND GREECE, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE CYPRUS CRISIS HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES OF THE ISLAND, THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES, AND THAT CONDITIONS DISAPPROVED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONTINUE TO EXIST. (WE ASSUME USEC CAN OBTAIN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE COMMISSION: ONLY GREEK VERSION AVAILABLE HERE.)

5. EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK-DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY WAS GENERATED BY THE OFFICIAL EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOANS OF \$10 MILLION TO THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND \$1.9 MILLION TO THE HELLENIC INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (SEE REF. B FOR DETAILS), THE FIRST ALLOTMENTS FROM THE "UNFROZEN" BALANCE OF THE FIRST GREEK-EC FINANCIAL PROTOCOL.

6. EC OFFICE IN ATHENS-DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ATHENS OF A PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE, UPGRADING THE PRESENT EC OFFICE HERE (WHICH IS STAFFED BY GREEKS). A COMMISSION OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE MORE OFFICIAL EC PRESENCE IS NOT EXPECTED TO OPEN UNTIL EARLY 1976.

7. THORN VISIT-AS THE MIXED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ENDED PRIME MINISTER GASTON THRON OF LUXEMBOURG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRIVED IN ATHENS. POINTING OUT THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD ASSUME THE EC PRESIDENCY NEXT YEAR, HE HAD WARM WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR THE GREEK BRETHREN, BUT WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THE TIMING OF GREEK ENTRY, POINTING OUT IT COULD BE A SLOW PROCESS.

8. COMMENT-WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS AT GREEK MINISTRIES OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COMMENTED THAT THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK WERE PERHAPS USEFUL AS A DEMONSTRATION OF COOPERATIVE SPIRITY, BUT THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GREECE'S APPLICATION AND THE TWO EIB LOANS, THEY HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE. THERE IS SOME SKEPTICISM AT WORKING LEVEL THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREEK ENTRY COULD BE CONCLUDED IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS. NEVERTHELESS, THE GREEK PRESS GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION

TO THE MEETINGS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WHICH WERE PLAYED
UP AS BEING THE BEGINNING OF THE ENTRY PROCESS. MOREOVER,
THE GOG MADE A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, THROUGH MINISTER
PAPALIGOURAS (COORDINATION) AND BITSIOS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) TO
PRESENT THE GREEK CASE FORCEFULLY, AS DID PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE VISITING EUROPEANS.

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